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C O N F I D E N T I A L VATICAN 005095

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR EUR/WE (MENNUITI), S FOR CRAIG KELLY

FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 164/01

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/26/11

TAGS: [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [VT](#)

SUBJECT: TFUS01: VATICAN POSITION ON RETALIATION AGAINST
TERRORISTS

REF: (99) ROME 2196

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(U) CLASSIFIED BY DCM MERANTE FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1.Q(U) REFTEL OUTLINES THE VATICAN'S JUST WAR DOCTRINE AND
ITS APPLICATION TO RECENT CONFLICTS.

12. (U) SEVERAL OPINIONS ON ITS APPLICATION TO THE
SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES HAVE EMERGED FROM SENIOR VATICAN CIRCLES IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. PAPAL SPOKESMAN JOAQUIN NAVI
CLARIFICATION SAYING HE WAS MERELY STATING STANDARD VATICAN DOCTRINE. WHILE POPE JOHN PAUL II CONTINUES TO CALL FOR DIALOGUE AND PROMOTES PEACE
ALL BECOME HOSTAGES." " NUMBER THREE IN THE VATICAN
GOVERNMENT HIERARCHY, ARCHBISHOP LEONARDO SANDRI, DESCRIBED TERRORISM AS A THREAT TO ALL PEOPLE, NOT JUST TO THE UNITED STATES.

13. (C) THE BOUNDARIES OF THE VATICAN'S JUST WAR THEORY ARE SOMEWHAT BLURRED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE WAR ON TERRORISM. GUIDING PRINCIPLES F
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DESPERATE THE SITUATION. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE GRAVITY OF THE ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, SOME LIMITED AND PRECISE FORM OF MILITARY RESPONSE

14. (C) HOWEVER, UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR POSSIBLE U.S.
MILITARY ACTION IS NOT UNANIMOUS IN THE VATICAN AND WOULD NOT BE. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER (WHO IS NOTED FOR HIS PRO A
VATICAN'S POSITIVE NEUTRALITY. THE VATICAN IS FIRMLY
CONVINCED THAT ANY REGIME WHICH REPLACES THE CURRENT ONE WILL NOT BE AS SUPPORTIVE OF THE LARGE IRAQI CATHOLIC POPULATION. IN ADDITION, EVEN I

15. (C) COMMENT: THE VATICAN'S POSITION ON THE USE OF FORCE IN RETALIATION WILL BE CRITICAL IN BUILDING WORLDWIDE PUBLIC
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SUPPORT. POST REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT REMAIN SENSITIVE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE VATICAN INFORMED IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY SURPRISES
SUPPORT.

NICHOLSON

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